

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the following remarks.

Claims 20-22, 26-32, 37 and 40-57 are presented for consideration. Claim 20, 26-31, 37, 40-42, 46, 48-50, 52, 54 and 56 are independent. The claim status identifier for claim 41 has been corrected to read -- Previously Presented --. As discussed above, the claim identifiers used in this response presume entry of the Preliminary Amendment filed on July 21, 2004.

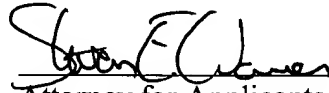
For the reasons set forth in the above-noted Preliminary Amendment, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 20, 26-31, 37, 40-42, 46, 48-50, 52, 54 and 56, is patentably defined over the art of record, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

Dependent claims 21, 22, 32, 43-45, 51, 53, 55 and 57 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicants further submits that the instant application remains in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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